

April 11, 2018

The City Council of the City of Rocky Mount met this day at 4:00 p.m. in a Special Called Joint Meeting with the Human Relations Commission in the George W. Dudley City Council Chamber of the Frederick E. Turnage Municipal Building.

Councilmembers present: Mayor David W. Combs; Councilmembers Andre D. Knight\*; Lamont Wiggins\*; Tom Rogers; W. B. Bullock; and Christine Carroll Miller.

Councilmembers absent: Reuben C. Blackwell, IV and E. Lois Watkins.

Staff Present: Rochelle D. Small-Toney, City Manager; Pamela O. Casey, City Clerk; Peter Varney, Interim Assistant City Manager; Tameka Kenan-Norman, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer; Archie Jones, Director of Human Relations; Felisa Hunter, Human Relations Specialist and Youth Council Advisor; Mark Adcox, Video Production Specialist; Elayne Henderson, Director of Human Resources; Landis Faulcon, Director of Community & Business Development; Bob League, Principal Transportation Planner; Kelvin Yarrell, Director of Parks and Recreation; Marty Clay, Police Captain; Westlyn Seabreeze, Police Sergeant; Jonathan Boone, Director of Public Works and Water Resources; Lawanda Hawkins, Administrative Assistant, Human Relations Department; Charlean Wilkins, Executive Secretary, City Manager's Office; Michael Shaw, Fleet Maintenance Supervisor; Robin Cox, Communications Specialist; Ryan Hepler, Police Lieutenant; Alicyn Wiedrich, Arts Center Curator; Shiana Thomas, Parks and Recreation Project Planner; Tempsie Richardson, Employee Health Nurse; Kim Batts, Deputy City Clerk; and Richard J. Rose, City Attorney.

Security Officer: Retired Police Sergeant Stoney Battle and Police Sergeant Robert Rothrock.

Human Relation Commission members present: Mousa Shehadeh, Richard Pitt, Ralph Stevenson, Linwood Williams, Theresa Stokes, Lucy Taylor, Curmilus Dancy, II and Sue Battle Moore.

Others present: Dr. Bertha Todd and Rita Todd.

#### **WELCOME/OPENING COMMENTS**

Mayor David W. Combs introduced guest presenter, Dr. Bertha Todd, from Wilmington, North Carolina, to give a presentation on the reconciliation process regarding the Wilmington race riots of 1898. He stated that Dr. Todd is a member of the 1898 Memorial Foundation which has been working through reconciliation since 1995; is a retired educator and community advocate; and holds degrees in Administration and Supervision, Educational Administration and Supervision and Library Science and Biology from both East Carolina University and North Carolina Central University.

The Mayor stated that Dr. Todd's work has been documented in published books. She has served as an assistant principal for John T. Hoggard High School in New Hanover County and has served as a

Human Relations trainer for both New Hanover County Sheriff's deputies and at Roland Grise School in Wilmington. The Mayor noted that Dr. Todd has also served as a career development coordinator, a librarian and a secondary summer school principal. He told those present that she has completed a large amount of consultant and professional work and her presentation today will be a great kick-off for the start of the City's Community Conversations. He added these dialogue sessions will deal directly with the confederate monument.

**PRESENTATION**

Dr. Bertha Todd gave a presentation on improving race relations outlining the reconciliation process regarding the Wilmington race riots of 1898, assisted by her daughter, Rita.

\*Councilmembers Knight and Wiggins arrived

Dr. Todd took questions from the audience.

Dr. Todd closed by stating these efforts will require a profound commitment, perseverance, positive and diplomatic actions, a respect of others' points of view and PRAYER.

**COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS/CONSULTANT**

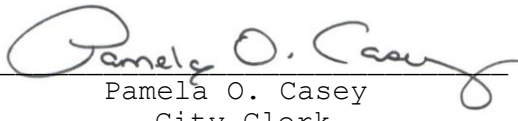
Willie Ratchesford with WPR Consulting out of Charlotte stated he has been retained to assist with the difficult conversations. He stated the conversations will give an opportunity for difficult dialogue, but if relationships exist the conversations will be easier.

He gave an overview of the process.

**CLOSING COMMENTS**

City Manager Rochelle D. Small-Toney thanked Dr. Todd for presenting today. She said we are about community in Rocky Mount and are going to tell our story. She thanked Dr. Todd for "lighting the path."

The meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

  
 Pamela O. Casey  
 City Clerk